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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Reactivation of the Hennigsdorf Steel Works

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1. The Mitteldeutsche Stahl und Walzwerke plant at Hennigsdorf was so badly damaged during the war that it was impossible to resume production before February 1948. In late December 1947, the Planning Department of the SMA instructed the Central Administration for Industry to restore the factory.

2. Equipment

a. Up to the end of the war, the Hennigsdorf works had twelve Siemens-Martin furnaces fed by three modern loading cranes, with two similar cranes in reserve.

b. Hennigsdorf had only two billet rolling mills and one ingot mill for rolling sheet metal.

c. The rolling presses were made in the factory from material containing 90% scrap iron.

d. There are now four furnaces ready for operation, and building is in progress on a further six. There is a shortage of firebricks and, since there are no stocks, the SMA has agreed to make one million firebricks available in May 1948.

e. The ingot mill is apparently ready, as no constructional work was seen in its vicinity.

f. Work is in progress on the reheating furnace, where bricklaying and gaspipe-laying are still going on.

g. Considerable work is being done on the stripping crane which carries ingots from the steel works to the mill or reheating furnace.

h. The billet rolling mill is apparently ready, since work has started on the billet-cutter.

i. The staging for sheet metal rolling is in a bad state of repair. Seven stagings are ready, but on sixteen the rollers are missing. These are hard to obtain as there is no means of making them.

j. The generator gas equipment is apparently ready; the condition of

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the heat chambers is unknown.

3. Capacity

Prior to the war the Hennigsdorf factory could produce 350,000 to 400,000 tons of steel ingots per year, which during the war was increased to 500,000 tons. The rolling mill produced pickled sheet metal and high-alloy sheet. By the end of 1944, a maximum of only 150,000 tons of sheet metal could be produced yearly because of the shortage of equipment, although, as a result of the demands of other mills for ingots, etc., sheet metal output fell to 75,000 tons during the last war years, when the shortage of materials was particularly acute.

4. Personnel

The Hennigsdorf workers came from Upper Silesia before the factory shut down; the majority of these are now in the western zones. There are now only few skilled workers available. Herr Stoph of the Central Administration for Industry is in charge of the reconstruction.

5. Raw Materials

There is no lack of stocks of scrap steel, and the plant has enough bales of sheet metal scraps to last for three months. Approximately two thousand tons of ingots and 4,000 tons of Flitch plates are lying in the open. About 1,500 tons of sheet metal, ½ to 1/10th mm thick, which also lie there, are so rusted as to be of scrap value only.

6. Products and Consumers

a. Products of Hennigsdorf works were:

Chilled steel
Steel ingots
Billets
Ingots and Flitch plates
S.M. medium sheet
S.M. sheet down to the thinnest caliber.

b. Quantities of ingots were sent to Riesa, Thale, and the Lauchhammer works. The firm delivered principally unprocessed material, particularly billets for the sheet rolling mills of the Mitteldeutsche Stahlwerke combine and medium sheet and Flitch plates for the Stahl-und Walzwerk Weber in Brandenburg (also part of the Mitteldeutsche Stahlwerke). Plate was sent to Riesa for sheet metal production.

7. Planned Production

The SMA has ordered the Hennigsdorf works to produce 200,000 tons of ingots yearly. When production starts, 150,000 tons must be rolled into sheets and 50,000 tons are to be delivered to the Eisenhüttenwerk Thale in billet form.

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[redacted] Comment: [redacted] it is possible that the figures mentioned in paragraph 7 may be reached by 1949, judging from present conditions. In 1950 they will certainly be reached. [redacted] if the SMA supports the rebuilding plan as promised, it is possible that Hennigsdorf will produce 10,000 tons of plate this year. By December 1948, 5,000 to 6,000 tons of sheet metal under one mm. in thickness will certainly be produced. It is possible that the same amount of billets may also be produced by December 1948.)

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